

Media Tip Sheet:

“How does a tree get treated for export?”



Before any wood can be exported to another country, it must be treated to prevent infestation in that area. Most people have heard stories about new insects coming to the United States and attacking our native trees.

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Indiana is home to the only inland log treatment station in the country to offer qualified U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Plant Health Inspection Service Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) for hardwood exports.

This saves loggers money, prevents port delays and expands log sale opportunities.

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Step 1: Logger delivers a container of logs, an average of 3,500 feet, to the 20,000 square foot USDA approved warehouse.

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Step 2: Under the supervision of a USDA-Division of Natural Resources (DNR) representative, tubes for methyl bromide (the USDA approved fumigation product) are inserted into the container.



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Step 3: The container is draped in a tarp and sand “snakes” are placed around it to hold the tarp.



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Step 4: The fumigation takes 24 or 72 hours depending on the wood specie (Oak or non-Oak). A 72 hour Oak treatment begins with methyl bromide being pumped into the container at a concentration of at least 240 ounces per 1,000 cubic feet and is monitored by the USDA-DNR representative.

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Step 5: The USDA-DNR representative monitors the gas concentration. Checks are made after 24 and 48 hours. If Oak is being treated, the process continues and additional checks are made after 72 hours.

At this point the fumigation is completed.

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Step 6: The container is vented inside the warehouse for 48 hours. This minimizes environmental hazard.

Note: Fumigation Services and Supply (FSS) is pushing for a more environmentally-friendly treatment that protects global forests. USDA officials visited FSS in June 2008 to evaluate a new treatment method to transition the treatment of Indiana hardwoods away from methyl bromide to sulfuryl fluoride.

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Step 7: The logger picks up the container and proceeds to port for export.

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If you would like a copy of any of the photos in this PowerPoint, contact jkeating@isda.in.gov and they will be emailed to you. Please include deadline information.

